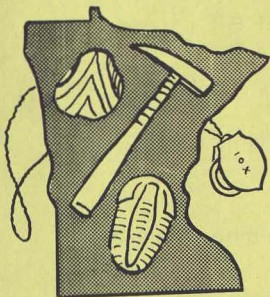


June 1980

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NEWS

Geological Society of Minnesota

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA



FIRST CLASS



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HIGHLIGHTS from the BOARD

Membership

Merjorie Mc Gladery reports that we now total 179 paid members, which is 14 more than in 1979.

Lectures

Our 1980-81 lecture program is taking shape under the general themes of water and geology, according to Jay Hutchinson, Chair.

Public Service Committee

The GSA display, now being assembled, at the I-94 rest stop at Elm Creek (No. of Minneapolis) is entitled "How Did We Get Our Lakes?". Color photos and text tie in with a geological map of the Twin Cities' area.

Sr. Joan Kain and cohorts have carried on the Society's goal of disseminating to the public pertinent geological information. Thirty-three roadside markers were erected describing the geological features to be seen at each site.

Camera Fund

The following contributors' names were not included in the last newsletter: Sr. Joan Kain, Sr. Myra Cannon, Merle and Ruth Harris, Ethel Shinek, and Sophie Wojtysiak, the first to give and whose name was somehow overlooked.

A total of \$231.55 was contributed by 54 members, and bought camera, case, film and extra batteries to help Gerry illustrate his on-the-spot field notes. Best of all, the camera (polaroid) worked well in the antarctic summer weather (15 - 20°F.).

Looking Ahead

Minnesota State Fair

Beginning August 21st, our booth in the Education Building, will need three volunteers each day for 12 days. The stint at the booth is interesting and provides an opportunity to see the Fair as well.

Exhibiting at the Fair is our main Publicity activity. It gives us a chance to acquaint a lot of people with our programs in geology. Many of you have learned about GSA at the Fair, and many can do their bit this way. To volunteer, Call Alex Lowe 431 8853.

Next...

Sept. 29 Annual Meeting includes elections of board members and review of field trips and preview of lectures.

Oct. 13 Lectures begin and continue on second and fourth Mondays.

Board Doings

Committees for 1980 are being filled out, with volunteers needed, especially for the Newsletter and publicity.

Martha Peterson's large rock collection and books on geology were turned over to the Society in February by her sister, Mrs. Harold Strand of Minneapolis, and her niece and nephew, Mr. & Mrs. James Burt of Eden Prairie. Many thanks to them. We hope to put Martha's treasures to good use.

Leacocks Take Over at Grand Canyon - - -

Bob and Joan Leacock who moved to Arizona a year ago have written about their employment for several months at the tourist lookouts on the South Rim, a "natural" for two such avid rock hounds. We enjoyed their friendship and help for many years, including those when Bob was G.S.M. treasurer.

Tracks 1.5 Million Years OldOLDEST FOSSIL FOOTPRINTS FOUND

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Scientists have found what are believed to be the oldest fossil footprints made by a direct ancestor of man. 1.5 million-year-old tracks along a lake shore in northern Kenya.

The seven footprints probably were made by *Homo erectus*, whose evolutionary path leads straight to modern man, the National Science Foundation announced Sunday.

Scientists say the footprints appear to have been left by someone between 5 and 5½ feet tall, weighing about 120 pounds. The individual apparently walked from a very wet, muddy area into drier mud because some of the prints are larger than others.

THE DISCOVERY was made in sedimentary deposits along the northeast shore of Lake Turkana, about 350 miles north of Nairobi. Three prints were uncovered in August, 1978 while a trench was being dug, and the rest were found in July.

Dr. Anna Behrensmeyer of Yale University and the University of California, expedition coleader, said that at the time the footprints were made, there were two known forms of hominids, or human-like creatures.

Along with *Homo erectus*, there was *Australopithecus*, whose skull bones were heavier and brain smaller than his contemporary. Both walked upright on two feet.

THE TWO TYPES are believed to have come from a common ancestor. The line of *Australopithecus* died out for unknown reasons. While *Homo erectus* lived on.

"Both of these forms of hominids are potential candidates for the maker of the tracks we found", said Behrensmeyer. "But the case is stronger for *Homo erectus* because its fossil bones are preserved in nearby strata, but not the bones of *Australopithecus*."

A research group led by Dr. Mary Leakey earlier found 3.6 million-year-old hominid footprints at Laetoli in Tanzania. They are believed to belong to an older, more primitive relative of man - perhaps in the *Australopithecus* family.

There is little difference in the shape of the footprints left by modern man and those found in Kenya and Tanzania, the scientists noted. However, because of their larger size, the *Homo erectus* prints are more like man's than the small Tanzanian tracks, they added.

HINTS FOR FIELD TRIPPERS

Since our field trips are primarily for working rather than sight seeing, the following suggestions are offered:

- 1 / Clothing: Casual and practical, preferably layers that can be added or removed for maximum comfort; comfortable walking shoes or boots. Plastic rain coat and hood.
- 2 / Equipment: Plastic bags, masking tape, pens, note book, geologists hammer.
- 3 / Food and drink: We always have lunch in the field. Bring drinking water as well as other beverage. Busses do not have drinking water.
- 4 / Optional items: Camera, field glasses, hand lense, rain boots. Rock or fossil identification guides.
- 5 / Overnight: In addition to usual items, plan for more meals in the field with canned or dry foods that do not need refrigeration.
- 6 / Plan to spend the whole day; schedules tend to be flexible. We will return when we arrive.

Note: Minnesota Geological Survey has some booklets on mineral and fossil collecting.

CHECK YOUR CALENDAR

Field Trip Dates

- Saturday, June 7 1 day by bus
Geology of the Twin Cities' area by Dr. Joseph E. Goebel
- Saturday, June 28 1 day by car
St. Cloud and surrounding areas with Dr. G. B. Morey
- Saturday and Sunday July 19 and 20 2 days by bus
Duluth through northern Wisconsin to Upper Michigan
with Dr. Richard Ojakangas
- Saturday, August 2 1 day by car
Cambrian and Ordovician Formations from Taylor's Falls
to Rochester with Dr. Ferald Webers

For further information, call Robert Gunville 574 1421



OIL 'FIND' HOPE HELD FOR COAST

WASHINGTON (AP) -- The head of the U. S. Geological Survey says there is a chance of finding significant quantities of oil beneath a reef more than 100 miles out in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean.

However, William Menard said Thursday there is no certainty the reef holds any oil at all. He said the estimates of a potential discovery there are based on comparisons with similar geological formations where oil has been found.

Another catch is the location. The depth of water over the reef and the rock covering it would make exploration difficult and expensive.

Menard said the geological "trend" stretching from Mexico through the Gulf of Mexico and up the Atlantic Coast from Florida almost to Canada might contain 2 billion to 15 billion barrels of oil.

The most likely place to explore, he said, is about 140 miles off the New Jersey coast - an area that could contain anywhere from 1 billion to 6 billion barrels of recoverable oil.

The nation's total proven reserves, a measure of known deposits that can be economically recovered, are now estimated at 30 billion barrels. Saudi Arabia is believed to have five times that much.

Menard's remarks were made at an energy seminar in Atlanta and issued in Washington by the Geological Survey, an agency of the Interior Department.

He said the 100-million-year-old reef is about 15 miles wide and 20,000 feet thick. But it is buried under some 6,000 feet of rock and 6,000 feet of water, making drilling from conventional offshore rigs impossible.

Menard also said the geological survey seriously is considering reactivating and refitting the Glomar Explorer to conduct deep-water explorations of the reef during the next two years.

St. Paul Dispatch
8-11-79

Address Changes

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Members Not in Roster

Richard Hallberg
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Spring Banquet

The Banquet drew a goodly number of members and friends who enjoyed the excellent turkey dinner and program.

Gerry Webers' lecture and slides of Antarctica gave us a new insight into this remote land. The scenes had an "other world" quality, and were of great beauty.